



Susquehanna Beekeepers



<http://susquehannabeekeepers.com>

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In This Issue:

SBA Contact Information Pg. 1

President's Ramblings

SBA Meeting Information

Notes From The Apiary Pg. 2

Odds and Ends

Meetings and events Pg. 3

Bee Bee (Evodia) Tree Update

Volunteer and Fair Info Pg. 4

**Summer and Fall Pg.5
Management**

SBA Extractor Usage Pg. 7

Claudia's Corner

Newsletter Contributors

President's Ramblings: It's been an up and down spring for my bees with three hives swarming in May. Though each should now have a strong first year queen mated with local drones, these hives will yield little in the way of harvestable honey this year. However, my weakest hive, having little more than one small patch of brood back in late March, simply exploded with new brood through April and May. These bees have now packed in three solid supers of honey!! BTW, I never actively requeened this hive and can only assume the current queen is an offspring of my very first Russian package from seven years back!

As we do not schedule a July SBA meeting, our next official gathering is the "Summer Potluck Picnic" on Wednesday, Aug 13 at Friends Park in Forest Hill, an excellent opportunity to form new(bee) friendships!!

This marks my 50th and final issue as newsletter editor. I'm pleased to be transferring editorship into the capable hands of [Aileen Richards](#) and know you will give her your full support. Having been editor since Feb 2009, SBA webmaster since its inception in 2011, VP for two years and President for the past three, *I will be stepping down as SBA President at the end of 2014.* Nominations for 2015 officers are slated for October, elections in November. Our next SBA Board meeting is July 2. Board meetings are open to all members so if you have an interest in influencing the direction of the SBA, [email me](#) and I'll gladly include your name when sending SBA "Board Business" emails. ...Dennis

**Susquehanna
Beekeepers
Association**



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- [Dennis Hertzog](#) - President
- [Harry Dutcher](#) - Vice President
- [Claudia Hertzog](#) - Secretary
- [John Kovac](#) - Treasurer
- [Pam Kryglik](#) - Officer Intern
- [Aileen Richards](#) - Newsletter

SBA Summer Potluck Picnic!!
Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 6:30 pm at
[Friends Park, Forest Hill, MD](#)



NOTES From The Apiary
July 2014
by Robert Crouse

On June 17th, I decided that as the bees were not working hard, the nectar flow was pretty much over for my area. So I went out in the afternoon and started removing supers. Sure glad I did as I found several swarm queen cells, 4 of which were already closed! So now I not only was in the honey super removal business, but I made up 5 nucs for next year by moving 3 frames of bees and brood along with a queen cell into each nuc box. I will feed the nucs with sugar water to get the bees primed to drawn new comb for the second box that they will need for winter stores.

I sure was a sight, as I was only wearing a T-shirt and shorts as it was in the 90's (I did have my veil on of course), bees were flying everywhere and even some groups were on the ground where I had used smoke to drive them out of the supers. As they came out, I would use my bee brush to whisk them into the air or they would not have left the super. I only got two stings, one on my thumb and another on a finger. My "girls" are really nice to work with. Times like this I would like to have some "newbees" around that could take pictures to show neighbors and others that are bee shy.

I really want to encourage all of you to purchase one or two nuc box set-ups to start your own nucs. After you have removed your honey supers, the hives are overpopulated and need to have several frames of brood and bees removed. You could place these frames with some eggs or queen cells into a nuc, which gives you insurance in case something unexpected should happen to your mother hive. If you over-winter the nuc, you could always sell it to someone in need of bees for spring buildup.

I will make up some frames with foundation now and start getting comb drawn for replacement of old comb in my brood boxes. Since the supers have been removed and the hives are still a bit crowded, this will give them something productive to do. I would encourage everyone who has old comb (4 years old or more) to do this especially if you treat your bees with chemicals or are in an area where pesticides are used.

Don't wash your propolis-stained bee clothes in the washing machine as the hot water will spread the propolis all over the inside of the machine, ready to stain the next load. To get propolis off of your fingers and hands, use finger nail polish remover (acetone) or mineral spirits to dissolve it, then wash it off with soap and water. Never set a honey super on a surface without something under it or propolis will stain the surface.

Now is a good time to compare the production of your hives to each other and to check your notes on the age of each hive's queen. If the hive is not productive and/or the queen is two or more years old, she should be replaced. The replacement should be done no later that Sept. 1st. Keep your hive tool sharp!

"ODDS and ENDS"

- ***SBA member, Alan Sheahan's "[Hive Swarm and Capture](#)" and "[Trailer](#)" video Enjoy!!***
- ***[What Goes On in Your Backyard](#)***
- ***Special thanks to Jeff Maenner for speaking at our May SBA meeting about raising our own queens!***
- ***The Pics throughout this issue are Bee Bee tree blooms.***
- ***Many thanks to all who contribute to our newsletter!!***

SBA-Related Meetings and Events:

- No July SBA General Meeting
- July 7-12 - Mason Dixon Fair - Honey entries can be dropped off on July 6 between 5 and 8 pm. The SBA will have an unmaned display at this fair.
- July 31 through Aug 3 - Harford County Farm Fair - Honey entry drop-off is July 30 between 12:00 and 5:30. The SBA will have an active display and needs volunteers to talk bees. Contact Harry Dutcher at 410-734-9236 or bspaboy@comcast.net if you can donate some time at this fair.
- Aug 13 (Wednesday) - SBA Summer Potluck Picnic - 6:30 at Friends Park in Forest Hill
- Aug 22 through Sep 1 - Maryland State Fair. The SBA will be talking bees and selling honey on Tuesday, Aug 26. Contact [Harry](#) or [Dennis](#) if you can donate some time at this fair.
- Sep 10 - (Wednesday) - General SBA Meeting - Town Hall Forum
- Oct 8 (Wednesday) - General SBA Meeting - 2015 SBA Officer Nominations - Speaker: Lloyd Snyder on "Raising Queens"
- Nov 12 (Wednesday) - General SBA Meeting - 2015 SBA Officer Elections - Speaker: Bonnie Raindrop on "Bee-Friendly Legislation"
- Dec 10 (Wednesday)- SBA Holiday Party - Details to follow.

**SBA Board meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month. Email [Dennis](#) for more info.

Bee Bee Seeds - by Dennis Hertzog

After passing out Bee Bee tree seeds last fall, it seems that members' planting results have varied greatly, some even reporting no success with the seeds at all. A fair number of my own seeds did sprout and I have now transplanted close to 100 young seedlings into my garden. These are not yet potted but my plan is to avoid disturbing them until next spring. The survivors should be ready for distribution at that time.



For years, a number of our members have been "talking up" the beneficial aspects of this fast growing tree as an excellent July nectar source (note various pics throughout this issue). Here is a quick overview link: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st242>. The Bee Bee tree is on the Pennsylvania "watch list" as a possible invasive species. From http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010298.pdf: "Little is known about its impact on the environment but it is considered a 'watch species' because it shows invasive tendencies in certain situations".

The seeds that were distributed came from a mature tree in southern York County. I again had the opportunity to visit this tree a week ago and observed only one young Bee Bee coming up at its base. As a catalyst for future discussion, I strongly encourage our members to weigh the benefits (or otherwise) of planting Bee Bee (Evodia) trees. *Your input is always welcome!!*

***Volunteers are needed for the Harford County Farm Fair and MD State Fair!!
No Experience Necessary!! The perfect opportunity to talk about your bees!!
Volunteers receive complimentary admission passes!!***

- The SBA will have an active display area at this year's Harford County Farm Fair. We need volunteers to talk "honeybees" to fair goers. HCFF dates and times are:

31 July: 10am - 1pm, 12pm - 5pm, 5pm - 9pm

1 August: 10am - 1pm, 12pm - 5pm, 5pm - 9pm

2 August: 10am - 2pm, 2pm - 5:30pm, 5:30pm - 9pm

3 August: 10am - 2pm, 2pm - 6pm



- The SBA will be "talking bees" and "selling honey" on Tuesday, 26 August at this year's Maryland State Fair in Timonium, MD. The SBA makes one-eleventh of the net honey sale profit during the 11-day fair. We need five volunteers to cover each of the following shifts:

26 August (Tuesday): 12noon - 4pm, 4pm - 7pm, 7pm-10pm

Contact [Harry Dutcher](#), 410-734-9236 or [Dennis Hertzog](#) as soon as possible if you can volunteer to cover a shift or two.

2014 Fairs and Honey Show Schedule - compiled by Harry Dutcher

1. Mason-Dixon Fair, 7-12 July, Delta, PA, <http://www.masondixonfair.com/>. Entry drop-off 6 July, 5:00-8:00 pm
2. Harford County Farm Fair, 31 July – 3 August, Harford County Equestrian Center, Bel Air, MD, <http://www.farmfair.org/>, see website for Open Class pre-registration. Entry drop-off 30 July, 12:00-5:30 pm
3. Howard County Fair, 2-9 August, West Friendship, MD, <http://howardcountyfair.org/>, see website for on-line Fair Book
4. Maryland State Fair, 22 August – 1 Sep, Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD, <http://www.marylandstatefair.com/index.cfm?page=info>, see website for Open Entries Registration. Online Entries close 31 July 2014. Entry drop-off 19 August, 1:00 – 8:00 pm.
5. Anne Arundel County Fair, 10-14 September, Crownsville, MD, http://www.aacountyfair.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=94, see website for on-line Fair Book
6. Maryland State Beekeepers Association Honey Show, Nov 2014, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, <http://www.mdbeekeepers.org/index.html>. MSBA members do not need to attend to enter. Non-members must submit entries in person.

SUMMER AND FALL MANAGEMENT

by Robert Crouse

“Fall is the Beginning of the Beekeeper’s Year”

Everything we do as beekeepers depends upon our personal objectives—just to enjoy having hives, competing in fairs, producing honey and wax, or even pollination contracts.

Whatever the goal, we need maximum bee populations in time for the major nectar flow from mid-May to mid-June. Good management now will help with winter survival, which makes for good bee foraging populations next spring. A beekeeper must be concerned with food stores, where the food is stored, ventilation (remove excess bur comb), disease prevention, queen quality and hive box condition. The key management practices are:

1. Make sure of a productive queens
2. Check for diseases and apply preventive medications
3. Reduce colony size for normal cluster behavior
4. Protect colony from pests (e.g., mice)
5. Ensuring adequate ventilation
6. Provide protective weather measures
7. Ensure hive food stores



1. Make sure of a productive queen: Has your queen done well over the last winter? Is she making a good brood pattern with only a few drones as needed? If the queen is in her second year of production, you should consider an early summer replacement or you may risk having a failing queen at the peak of next year’s season.

2. Check for diseases and apply preventative medications: I was taught to treat my bees to prevent disease; I no longer do this. I treat only if I have a problem or know I will have a problem. If you have a history of nosema, you should give new, package colonies one gallon and mature colonies two gallons of medicated Fumidil B syrup by October. Don’t wait too late or the bees may stop taking in the syrup. If you have tracheal mites, treat with menthol; if you have Varroa mites, treat as directed with the medication of your choosing after removing honey intended for human consumption.

3. Reduce colony size for normal cluster behavior: Unlike in the spring, you should under-super, or crowd, the bees. This forces them to consolidate food stores higher up. You want every frame above the brood nest to be full of stores and it’s OK to shrink down the brood area with stores coming in from each side. Perhaps some of you have heard me explain how I destroyed excess bee populations after honey removal when I lived in the Woodlawn area of Baltimore County; I had very little nectar flow after the spring and it was either reduce the bee population or feed sooner than normal just to maintain the foragers that brought back very little. Of course, you can also make nucs with those bees. If a colony is small late in the season, you have some options to help. The best is to combine with another weak colony, saving the best queen. You could try to get another queen or package, but that may not be available, and even with a new queen brood production naturally shuts down in fall.

Bees start to cluster at 64°F so the natural size of the brood cluster will be shrinking to the size the bees can cover at lower temperatures.

4. *Protect the colony from pests:* Don't forget some type of mouse control at the entrance if needed. Small hive beetles will be a problem for weak or small colonies; just reduce the number of frames in the colony so that there are enough bees to take care of the problem. Don't store frames with honey stores in them where the hive beetles or wax moths can get to them. I use a wax moth drawer in a stack of supers to treat for wax moth with paradichlorobenzene.

5. *Ensure adequate ventilation:* Colonies need ventilation to get rid of metabolic vapor the bees produce, especially during the winter. Propping the outer cover up slightly can help. You can use anything handy like a small stone or stick. I have cut some tapered pieces from a cedar shingle that I then insert to make the gap to the size that I want. Some beekeepers like a small upper entrance. A lot of inner covers purchased today have a cut out in them for upper entrances. You must block the cut out when not needed. I have also cut small grooves into the frame of the inner cover, too small for the bees to use but enough to aid ventilation.

6. *Provide protective weather measures:* Some beekeepers like to wrap their hives to provide some insulation for winter cold. I personally have never done this as most of our winters here in Maryland are mild enough. Even when we do get a cold spell, it does not usually last long enough to harm the bees if the hive is strong and well supplied with stores. Depending on the hive's location, wind breaks and placement of hives where sun light is available should be considered. Be prepared to remove snow and ice from entrances as needed.

7. *Ensure hive food stores:* Starvation can be a real threat in late summer as the weather is hot, bees are active, and food consumption is high. You need to keep checking on stores either by observation—my way—or by checking hive weight by lifting or with a scale. You should plan on at least 60 lbs. of food stores per hive for winter consumption. Make sure equipment such as queen excluders and pollen traps are removed. Take care that the colony does not get honey-bound—leave 3 or 4 combs with brood or empty cells in the center of the colony. Both honey and pollen should be directly above the cluster. Feed light hives syrup at 1 to 1 mix by weight in the summer and heavy syrup (2 to 1 water mix by weight) in the fall (late Sept. thru Oct.); it can be either sucrose or HFC 50% syrup base.

To use sucrose sugar at a 2:1 mix it will require a large pot on your stove. You must heat the water to near boiling—note, do **not** boil the sugar mixture—and add two pounds of sugar for each pound of water—(8 lbs water per gallon)—constantly stirring to mix until dissolved. Some advise adding Cream of Tartar to this mixture.

The type of feeder you use is a personal decision. The Boardman-style entrance feeder can encourage robbing in the late summer and fall. It is advisable to pick a style that you can leave in place for the rest of the season even until spring to feed as needed. In any case, I don't recommend any type of feeding with supers on that you plan on using for extracting due to the possibility of contamination of the honey with the sugar water.

How much honey and when you harvest is of the foremost consideration. If your area has late honey flows you can take more spring honey and leave the usually dark strong-flavored fall honey to the bees.

Enjoy your Bees!

The SBA Honey Extractor - John Knapstein

The Susquehanna Beekeepers Association owns a manual, two-frame extractor that is available for loan on a "first come, first serve" basis. There is no charge if you are an SBA member. Arrange pickup by contacting me, John Knapstein, at 410-692-9823 or jdk92048@aol.com. The loan time is limited to one week so please plan accordingly. An uncapping knife is also provided.

The equipment should be CLEANED before being returned. Let the bees clean out the extractor and then rinse thoroughly with hot water. The knife can be cleaned with a damp rag when it is still hot, directly after unplugging.

The equipment can suffer some wear and tear over time, as the gears and plastic valve can (and did) break. Let me know if something breaks so parts can be ordered and repairs made. Basically, treat it as if it were yours and don't spin it too fast!!!

Remember to extract honey when the weather is warm as the honey will flow much better!
Enjoy!


Claudia's Corner

*Fame is a bee.
It has a song-
It has a sting-
Ah, too, it has a wing.
Emily Dickinson*



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

- **Bob Crouse:** *Notes, Summer/ Fall Management*
- **Harry Dutcher:** *Fair Updates*
- **John Knapstein:** *Extractor Usage*
- **Claudia Hertzog:** *Claudia's Corner, Colorist*
- **Aileen Richards:** *Modern incoming Newsletter Editor...*
- **Dennis Hertzog:** *Ramblings, Bee Bee pics, Ancient outgoing Newsletter Editor...*



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